

TO THE CORPORATION OF THE BOROUGH OF DROITWICH.

Mr. Mayor & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Report on the health of the borough for the year ending 31st December, 1944.

This Report is prepared in accordance with Circular 49/45 issued by the Ministry of Health, in March, 1945.

SECTION A.STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF AREA.

Area in (acres)	1735 acres
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1944)	1473
Rateable Value	£37,804
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£148. 4. 11d.

The following are extracts from the vital statistics for the year:

Live Births.

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Legitimate	79	46	33
Illegitimate	8	2	6

The Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population is 16.5
The Birth Rate for England and Wales for the same period is 17.6

Still-Births.

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Legitimate	1	1	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-

The still-birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births - 11.4

Deaths.

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
	75	38	37

The Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population is 14.2
The Death Rate for England and Wales for the same period is 11.6

There were no deaths of mothers associated with child-birth.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age:

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Legitimate	5	5	-
Illegitimate	1	-	1

This gives an infantile mortality rate of 69.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	10
" " Measles (all ages)	--
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	1
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1. Public Health Officers of the Authority:-

Medical Officer of Health: Dr. J. A. Stobbs, who
resigned in September, 1944.

" " " " From 4th December,
Dr. M. C. Fell.

Surveyor & Sanitary Inspector: Mr. R. E. Hulse, M.I.M. &
Cy.E., A.R. San.I; L.R.I.B.A.

2. (a) Laboratory facilities are provided by the County Council at their laboratory in Worcester.

(b) Ambulance facilities are unchanged, and continue to meet the needs of the district in a most satisfactory manner.

(c) Nursing in the Home is done by the local District Nursing Association.

(d) Treatment Centres and Clinics. The County Council's Infant Welfare Clinic is held every Tuesday afternoon and the Antenatal Clinic on the first and third Wednesday morning in each month. These Clinics are held in the Baptist Church Hall, Droitwich.

(e) Isolation Hospital. Cases of infectious disease requiring hospital treatment are admitted to Hill Top Isolation Hospital, Bromsgrove. Cases of Scabies requiring hospital treatment can be admitted to the County Council's Hospital at Tolladine, Worcester.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. (a) Water.

The Water supply continues to be satisfactory, both for quantity and quality.

(b) Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

There have been no changes in these services. The disposal works have operated satisfactorily and effluent samples have complied with the required standards.

2. Rivers and Streams.

No serious pollution occurred during the year.

3. (a) Closet Accommodation.

One additional W.C. has been put in during the course of the year.

(b) Public Cleansing.

Collection and disposal of refuse have continued as in recent years and the service is quite satisfactory.

(c) Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Details of this will be found in the attached Tabular Statement prepared by the Sanitary Inspector.

(d) Shops.

Inspections have been carried out and any necessary alterations have been done.

(e) Smoke Abatement.

No action has been necessary in this matter.

4. Schools.

Regular medical inspection of school children has been continued throughout the year and necessary action has been taken where cases of infectious disease were concerned.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

1. Inspection of Dwelling- houses during the year.

(a) Total number of Dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	273
and number of inspection made for the purpose	281
(b) Number of dwelling houses (included above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations, 1925 and 1932	4
and number of inspections made for the purpose . . .	4
(c) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	None
(d) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	154

2. Remedy of defects without service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	154
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3. Action under Statutory Powers.

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs (or defects remedied)	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices.	
(a) By owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of Dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	None
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	
(a) By the owner	None
(b) Local Authority in default of owner	None

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of Housing Act 1936.

- | | |
|---|------|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | None |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | None |

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of Housing Act 1936.

- | | |
|--|------|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | None |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room been rendered fit | None |

4. Housing Act 1936, Part IV. Overcrowding.

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| (a) (1) Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at the end of the year | } No records available. |
| (ii) Number of families dwelling therein | |
| (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein | |
| (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year | Two |
| (c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year | None |
| (ii) Number of persons concerned in such | None |
| (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the local authority have taken steps for the abatement overcrowding | |
| No records have yet been obtained concerning many premises now overcrowded owing to war-time conditions | |

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk.

All Premises used in connection with the production or sale of milk were inspected regularly by the Sanitary Inspector during the year.

8 tins of milk were condemned as unfit for food.

(b) Meat.

Meat inspection has been confined to that in butcher's shops and stores as no slaughtering now takes place in the local slaughter houses.

During the year 163 lbs. 8 ozs. of meat and fish were condemned as unfit for human consumption.

(c) Adulteration.

No action was taken during the year.

(d) Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

This work is carried out by the County Analyst and Bacteriologist at the County Buildings, Worcester.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS
DISEASES.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

During the year further propaganda was carried out and 53 children completed their course of injections.

(a) Pre-school children	38
(b) School children	<u>15</u>
	<u>53</u>

At the end of the year the percentage of children estimated to be immunised in the age groups 0 - 5 and 5 - 15 years was 73.6% and 92.3% in the respective groups.

Every assistance was again received from the general practitioners, school teachers, health visitors and district nurse in connection with this campaign.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1944.

Figures showing the incidence of notifiable diseases during the year are given in the attached table.

Particulars of cases of infectious diseases which occurred during the year.

Disease	Total Cases Confirmed	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	4	4	3	Nil
Diphtheria	4	5	4	Nil
Measles	5	5	Nil	Nil
Primary Pneumonia	1	1	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough	3	3	Nil	1
Erysipelas	1	1	Nil	Nil
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	Nil	Nil
Acute Bacillary Dysentery	-	-	-	Nil

An analysis of the total notified cases are tabulated below according to age groups:-

Age Group	Ophthal- mia Neo- natorum	S. Fever	Measles	Diph- theria	Erys- ipelas	Primary Pneumo- nia.	Dys- en- try	Whooping Cough.
Under 1 yr	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
1 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 -	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
3 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4 -	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
5 -	-	4	3	4	-	1	-	1
10 -	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
15 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
35 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year there were three deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis.

Particulars of new cases are as follows:-

Age Periods.	<u>NEW CASES.</u>				<u>DEATHS.</u>			
	Respiratory M.	F.	Non-Respiratory M.	F.	Respiratory M.	F.	Non-Res- piratory M.	F.
0 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 -	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 -	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
35 -	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 -	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
55 -	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-
65 & over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	3	4	1	1	1	1	-	-

Figures at the beginning of year and end of year on register.

The number of cases of tuberculosis on the register at the end of December 1943 and 1944 were as follows:-

	Pulmonary Cases		Non-Pulmonary Cases	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
1943 -----	11	10	1	3
1944 -----	13	13	1	3

No action was taken in 1943 under the Public Health (Prevention) of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925, (relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade) or under Section 17 of the Public Health Act 1936, (relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis).

My thanks are due to Mr. G. L. Robinson and his staff for the help they have given in the compilation of this report.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

MARGARET C. FELL.

Medical Officer of Health.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT
of the Sanitary Work completed in the year ended
31st December, 1944.

Infectious Diseases, etc.

Visits to houses on account of notifiable disease	9
Houses disinfected after notifiable disease	9
Other houses disinfected	7

Housing.

Houses Erected: (a) By Local Authority	Nil
(b) By private enterprise or subsidy	-
1. (a) Total number of houses inspected for housing defects	281
(b) Number (included above) inspected and recorded under the Housing (Consolidated Regulations, 1925	
(c) Number of houses found unfit for habitation	Nil
(d) Number of houses (excluding c.) not in all respects fit for habitation	154
2. Number of defective houses rendered fit after informal action.	154
3. <u>Housing Act, 1936, Sections 9, 10 and 16.</u>	
(a) Number of dwellings in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs of defects remedied	Nil
(b) Number of dwellings subsequently rendered fit after notice by:-	
(a) The Owner	"
(b) Local Authority in default of owner	"
4. <u>Public Health Acts.</u>	
(a) Number of dwellings in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs of defects remedied.	Nil
(b) Number of dwellings subsequently rendered fit after notice by:-	
(a) The Owner	"
(b) Local Authority in default of owner	"
5. <u>Housing Act, 1936, Sections 11 and 13.</u>	
(a) Number of houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
(b) Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	"
6. <u>Housing Act, 1936, Section 12.</u>	
(a) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(b) Number of Closing Orders determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	"
7. <u>Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV. - Overcrowding.</u>	
(a) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	No records available
Number of families dwelling therein	"
Number of persons dwelling therein	"
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	2
(c) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	Nil
Number of persons concerned in such cases	Nil

- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding
- (e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report
- Many Promises now over crowded owing to war time conditions but no records have been obtained.

Dirty Houses dealt with 2
Yards paved or repaved 58

Moveable Dwellings, Caravans etc.

Number observed Nil
Number dealt with, as insanitary "

House Drainage, etc.

Number laid or relaid Nil
Number trapped, ventilated and repaired "
Number of obstructed drains dealt with 46
Number of house-drains tested Nil
Number of insanitary lavatories, sinks and urinals rectified 8
In what parishes, if any, is there need for a sewerage scheme, or improvements in sewage disposal None
Number of privy middens in use at end of year in rural parts of Borough 3
Number of earth or pail closets in use at end of year in rural parts of Borough 37

Water Closets.

No. of privy or pail conversions including additional W.C.'s. None
Number of defective W.C.'s remedied 31
Number of Slop Closets, converted to W.C.'s. with fresh water flush None
Number of additional W.C.'s. put in 1

Scavenging.

Number of houses from which refuse was removed 1399
Number of privies cleansed None
Number of ashpits cleansed 10
Number of portable receptacles cleansed 1400
Number of ashpits removed and ash bins provided None
How often is house refuse removed Weekly

Smoke Nuisances.

Number under observation None
Number abated "

Offensive Trades.

Number under observation None
Number improperly conducted "
Number newly established, with consent of Council "

Water Supply.

Number of wells sunk None
Number of wells cleansed and repaired "
Number of wells closed as polluted "
Number of houses supplied from waterworks during year "
Number of samples of water sent for analysis 4

Number of houses with contaminated or deficient water-supplies dealt with	None
Is there a deficiency in any parish or part of the District?	None
If so, please give name of parish or part.	

Slaughter Houses.

Public Slaughter houses	None
Number registered (private)	"
Number licensed (private)	5
Number of contraventions of bye-laws or defects found	None
Cases of slaughtering on unlicensed premises reported	35
Number of inspections	Premises not in use owing to Food Control.

Milk.

Number of registered dairy farms in the area	8
Total number of Retailers in district	10
Number of Licences under Milk (Special Designations Order:	

	Pasteurised	Accredited	Tuberculin Tested.
Bottlers	nil	1	nil
Retailers	2	5	1
Producers	nil	2	nil

Approximate number of milking cows in the district	95
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Canal Boats.

There are no Canal Boats registered.

Lodging Houses.

Number on Register.	None
Number of inspections	"
Number of contraventions of bye-laws or defects found	"

Houses Let in Lodgings.

Number on Register	None
Number of Inspections	"
Number of contraventions of bye-laws or defects found	"

Food.

Number of seizures as unfit for consumption	20
Amount voluntarily surrendered as unfit for consumption	The whole
Amount destroyed as unfit for consumption: Meat	163 lbs. 8oz
Other Food-stuffs	12 doz. Cake & Pudding Mixture.
	21 Tins Peas
	14 lbs. Cheese Parings
	4 cases & 263 lbs. Oranges
	8 Tins Milk

Cases of animals affected with Tuberculosis: Oxen	None
Figs	None

Food & Drugs' Act.

Samples taken for analysis	None
Number of samples certified genuine	"
Number of samples certified adulterated	"

Other Matters.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, Cases dealt with	None
Verminous Persons Cases dealt with	"
Verminous Houses Cases dealt with	2
Stagnant Water do.	None
Nuisances arising from domestic animals	"

Legal Proceedings.

Convictions obtained with regard to insanitary conditions	None
Convictions obtained with regard to unsound food	"

Outbreaks of Infectious Diseases.

There was no serious outbreak of Infectious Disease or other abnormal illness during the year.

Sanitary Improvements.

None.

Chief Sanitary Requirements.

None.

Fever.

None.

General Remarks.

At the end of 1944 it was hoped to shortly commence work upon the preparation of the Stalls Farm Housing Estate, which included the construction of roads and sewers.

(Signed) G. L. ROBINSON,

Sanitary Inspector.

